

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action, and for the acknowledgement of Applicants' claim for foreign priority and that the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. Applicants additionally wish to thank the Examiner for considering the materials in the Information Disclosure Statements filed in the present application on May 23, 2006, and September 11, 2007, as evidenced by the return of the signed copies of the Forms PTO-1449 attached to the Official Action.

Upon reviewing the Official Action, however, Applicants note that Form PTOL-326 does not indicate the status of the drawings. Applicants believe that the drawings are acceptable and will proceed accordingly, unless notified otherwise by the Examiner in the next Official communication.

In the Official Action, claims 1-2, 5-7, 13-18, and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over KUBOTA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,288,699 B1) in view of IWANI (U.S. Patent No. 6,559,603 B2). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over KUBOTA in view of IWANI and HAINES (U.S. Patent No. 4,697,107). Claims 4, 8, and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over KUBOTA in view of IWANI and SAITO (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0054924 A1). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over KUBOTA in view of IWANI, SAITO, and TAKUWA (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,363). Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over KUBOTA in view of IWANI and SOMEYA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,924,796 B1).

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-24 have been amended. Claims 1-24 are currently pending for consideration by the Examiner.

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 13-18, and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over KUBOTA in view of IWANI. Claim 1 is the only pending independent claim.

With regard to independent claim 1, the Official Action asserts that KUBOTA discloses a display device, which includes a clock signal generator, a serial data generator, a data driver, and a phase adjusting section (14) that adjusts a phase difference between a video signal and a clock signal, citing KUBOTA's Figure 1 and the corresponding description. In the rejection, the Official Action acknowledges that KUBOTA fails to disclose a latch failure detector and a plurality of discharge cells. However, the Official Action asserts that IWANI discloses a display device having a plurality of discharge cells, citing IWANI's Figure 1 and corresponding description. The Official Action also reasons that although KUBOTA fails to disclose a latch failure detector, that KUBOTA's phase adjusting circuit for detecting a phase difference is the same as Applicants' claimed detecting of a latch failure.

On April 27, 2008, a telephonic interview was held between Applicants' representative, Mr. Steven Wegman, and Examiner John J. Morris. During the interview, the distinctions between KUBOTA's phase adjusting section, illustrated in KUBOTA's Figure 1, and Applicants' claimed latch failure detector and phase adjuster, as recited in independent claim 1, was a primary issue of discussion. While Examiner Morris recognized the distinctions presented by Mr. Wegman, the Examiner asserted that the distinctions were not explicitly recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's concerns and in order to advance the prosecution of the application to allowance, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to explicitly recite "wherein the phase adjustment of the clock signal is only made if a phase of the serial data and the phase of the clock signal differ at least a predetermined amount such that a latch failure is detected". Thus, Applicants submit that Applicants' claimed latch failure detector and phase adjuster are distinctly different from KUBOTA's phase adjusting section, and that

amended claim 1 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art at the time of the invention in view of KUBOTA and IWANI.

More specifically, Applicants submit that in KUBOTA, phase difference t_a between the video signal DAT and the clock signal CKS is adjusted depending on the internal delay of the data signal line driving circuit (3), based on phase difference t_p . See KUBOTA's column 9, lines 39-53. Applicants submit that KUBOTA's system makes an adjustment whenever any phase difference t_p is detected, no matter how small. Thus, Applicants' submit that KUBOTA's system is distinctly different from Applicants' claimed system, wherein the phase adjustment of the clock signal is only made if a phase of the serial data and the phase of the clock signal differ at least a predetermined amount such that a latch failure is detected.

Applicants also submit that KUBOTA's phase difference t_d between the clock signal CKS and the sampling signal S (the delay of the sampling signal generating section (32)) is different from the phase difference t_p . Thus, in KUBOTA the delay t_d of the sampling signal generating section (32) cannot be determined exactly, but is approximated. See KUBOTA's Column 9, line 65, to column 10, line 2, and column 10, lines 41-51.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the combination of KUBOTA and IWANI. Applicants also submit that claims 2-24, which depend from independent claim 1, are also patentable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding independent claim 1, and further for the additional features recited therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

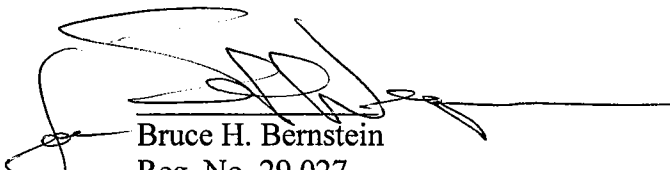
SUMMARY

From the amendments, arguments, and remarks provided above, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims in the present amendment are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action is respectfully requested and an indication of the allowance of claims 1-24 is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kazuhito TANAKA et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191